

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 7, MCA

With the passage of Senate Bill No. 480, the 2001 Montana Legislature pledged its participation in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER). The purpose of the PNWER is to synchronize the efforts of neighboring states and provinces to: “promote greater regional collaboration among the eight entities, enhance the overall competitiveness of the region in international and domestic markets, increase the economic well-being of all citizens in the region, and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.”

The PNWER may promote its aim by endorsing uniform legislation or policy initiatives enacted by two or more participating states, provinces, or territories. States and provinces eligible to participate in the PNWER include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory.

The PNWER consists of a Delegate Council comprised of the Governor or a designee and four legislators from each participating state and four representatives from each participating province and territory; and an Executive Committee consisting of one legislator from each participating state, province, or territory who is a member of the Delegate Council and four of the Governors, Premiers, or Commissioners or their designees.

Policy committees may be established to address specific topics. The Legislative Council is authorized under 5-11-301, MCA, to make Montana’s policy committee appointments to the PNWER.

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